

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer network, comprising:
at least one host computer;
at least one peripheral device; and
a microprocessorless network adapter interconnecting said at least one host
5 computer and said at least one peripheral device.
2. The network of claim 1, wherein said network adapter is configured to
meet standard requirements for a Universal Serial Bus (USB) host.
3. The network of claim 2, further comprising a USB hub interconnecting said
at least one peripheral device and said network adapter.
4. The network of claim 3, wherein said at least one peripheral device
comprises a plurality of peripheral devices, said adapter being configured to support
said plurality of peripheral devices.
5. The network of claim 4, wherein each said peripheral device has a unique
network address.
6. The network of claim 5, wherein each said unique network address
comprises a unique internet protocol address.
7. The network of claim 6, further comprising a remotely attached host
computer including one of a device driver and a utility, each said unique internet
protocol address being assigned by said one of a device driver and a utility.
8. The network of claim 5, wherein said adapter is configured to route data to
and from said peripheral devices using said unique network addresses.
9. The network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to manage
power on said at least one peripheral device.
10. The network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to send said at
least one peripheral device at least one command to go into a low-power sleep mode
until said adapter detects inbound data bound for said at least one peripheral device.
11. The network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to at least one
of send a wake-up command to said at least one peripheral device and verify an active
status of said at least one peripheral device before accepting the inbound data.
12. The network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to perform
automatic USB enumeration.

13. The network of claim 12, wherein said enumeration is performed without software.

14. A network adapter comprising:
at least one application specific integrated circuit; and
support electronics,
wherein said adapter is microprocessorless.

15. The adapter of claim 14, wherein said adapter is configured to meet standard requirements for a Universal Serial Bus (USB) host.

16. The adapter of claim 14, wherein said adapter is configured to interconnect at least one peripheral device and at least one host computer.

17. The adapter of claim 14, wherein said adapter is configured to:
detect inbound data;
process the inbound data; and
pass the processed data to at least one peripheral device.

18. The adapter of claim 14, wherein said application specific integrated circuit is configured to perform automatic USB enumeration.

19. The adapter of claim 18, wherein said enumeration is performed without software.

20. A computer network, comprising:
at least one host computer;
at least one USB peripheral device; and
a network adapter interconnecting said at least one host computer and said at

5 least one USB peripheral device, said network adapter being configured to receive and store status information from said at least one USB peripheral device.

21. The network of claim 20, wherein said at least one USB peripheral device comprises at least one printer.

22. The network of claim 20, wherein said at least one USB peripheral device is configured to periodically send the status information to said adapter.

23. The network of claim 20, wherein said at least one host computer includes at least one of a device driver and a utility, said at least one of a device driver and a utility being configured to send a status request to said adapter.

24. The network of claim 23, wherein said adapter is configured to send the stored status information to said at least one host computer in response to said status request.

25. The network of claim 20, further comprising a USB interface between said adapter and said at least one USB peripheral device.

26. A computer network, comprising:

at least one host computer;

at least one USB peripheral device; and

5 a network adapter interconnecting said at least one host computer and said at least one USB peripheral device, said network adapter being configured to create and store information regarding a status of said at least one USB peripheral device.

27. The network of claim 26, wherein said adapter is configured to record a power-on time.

28. The network of claim 26, wherein said adapter is configured to count a number of pages printed.

29. The network of claim 26, wherein said adapter is configured to track supply usage.

30. The network of claim 26, wherein said adapter is configured to record usage by said at least one host computer.

31. The network of claim 26, wherein said at least one host computer includes at least one of a device driver and a utility, said at least one of a device driver and a utility being configured to retrieve said status information.